

The “EYE”

ICE

“IN CASE OF EMERGENCY”

There are approximately 192 million cell phone subscribers in the United States. This means there are millions of Americans depending on their cell phone to get directions when they're lost, to reach their spouses at the store and to check on their kids. These mobile phones also serve as one of our best personal safety tools by allowing us to reach a 911 center for assistance regardless of where we are. If a simple initiative, conceived by a British paramedic, catches on your cell phone could be a link to a vital source of information for emergency responders.

ICE is the brainchild of East Anglain Ambulance Service paramedic Bob Brothie and was started in April of this year. The idea gained momentum after the bombings in London. Cell phone users are being asked to put the acronym ICE “in case of emergency”, in the phone's electronic address book before the name of the person they want to designate as next of kin. This would provide a contact person for the paramedics, in case the cell owner was unable to speak due to injuries or illness.

Once you have chosen your ICE person, you will need to:

- 📞 Tell this person you have entered his/her name as an ICE contact on your cell phone and what this means.
- 📞 Provide your ICE contact with a list of your medications and medical conditions.
- 📞 Give this person a list of people (along with their phone numbers) you would like contacted.
- 📞 ICE this person's home, Cell and work phone numbers to ensure that he/she is easily reachable.
- 📞 Give a copy of an advance directive or living will to your ICE person. Be sure family members and your doctors also have copies.

The Department of Homeland Security recommends that citizens look at the departments emergency preparedness site, Ready.Gov. This site provides a “family contingency plan” sheet that can be downloaded, which allows next-of-kin details and other emergency information to be recorded. Wallet-size cards are also available, which can be distributed to family members, with space for details about next-of-kin, emergency meeting places, out-of-town contacts and other important phone numbers.

By following either of the above plans, you may be saving valuable time for the paramedics, police and firefighters, when disaster strikes.



CHOOSING A MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN

Beginning January 1st, 2006 new Medicare prescription drug plans will be available to people with Medicare. If you currently are covered by Medicare Part A and/or Medicare Part B Insurance, you can join a Medicare prescription drug plan between November 15, 2005 and May 15, 2006. Private companies working with Medicare will be offering these drug plans. You may start receiving phone calls or e-mails from insurance companies attempting to sell you their plan. Beware of high pressure sales tactics. Don't commit to any insurance plan until you have done some research and know if it fits your needs. Help in choosing a prescription drug plan is available through the LIFE Office (441-7070), or by calling 1-800-MEDICARE or on the internet at www.medicare.gov.

SNOW EMERGENCIES AND REMOVAL

It is that time again.....time to start planning for the winter. We thought it would be wise to go through some of the city policies that deal with winter emergencies.

SNOW EMERGENCY: When declared, no parking is allowed on any arterial, emergency snow route or bus route. These routes are listed in your Alltel phone directory. Any vehicle parked on these routes during a snow emergency that is not an emergency vehicle, may be ticketed and towed.



RESIDENTIAL PARKING BAN: Residential streets **are not** plowed after every snow storm. When it is apparent that the snowfall will start to hamper travel in the residential areas, a residential parking ban may be declared by the Mayor. Parking may be banned on the even/odd sides or both sides. Local news media will let the public know when these bans are placed into effect. Any vehicles parked on these streets after the bans (even/odd or total bans) can be ticketed and towed.

SANDING OPERATIONS: Sanding starts when freezing rain begins to fall. Material is placed on the main arterials, bus routes and known problem areas. Generally, no parking ban will be in effect during this time, but things could change quickly. Listen to local media for updates.

SNOW REMOVAL - SIDEWALKS: City ordinance 14.80.110 requires that sidewalks be cleared of snow by 9 am the morning after snow stops falling. If a person does not remove the snow/ice from their sidewalks, a person or company can be charged by the city for the cost of removing the snow, as well as cited for a violation of city ordinance.



SNOW PLOWING OF DRIVEWAYS AND PARKING LOTS: City ordinance 14.92.040 prohibits the placing of snow into the roadway from parking lots and driveways at any time. Citizens or commercial contractors removing snow from their parking lots or drives must have a location to place the snow. Any person or contractor placing snow into the city street may be subject to citation for violation of city ordinance. The city may also assess the person the cost of removing the snow that was placed there by the offending party.

A more comprehensive definition of the policies for snow emergencies and snow removal can be found in the Alltel phone directory and on line at the city website. Please be prepared for the upcoming winter season. A little preparation now can save you problems at a later time.

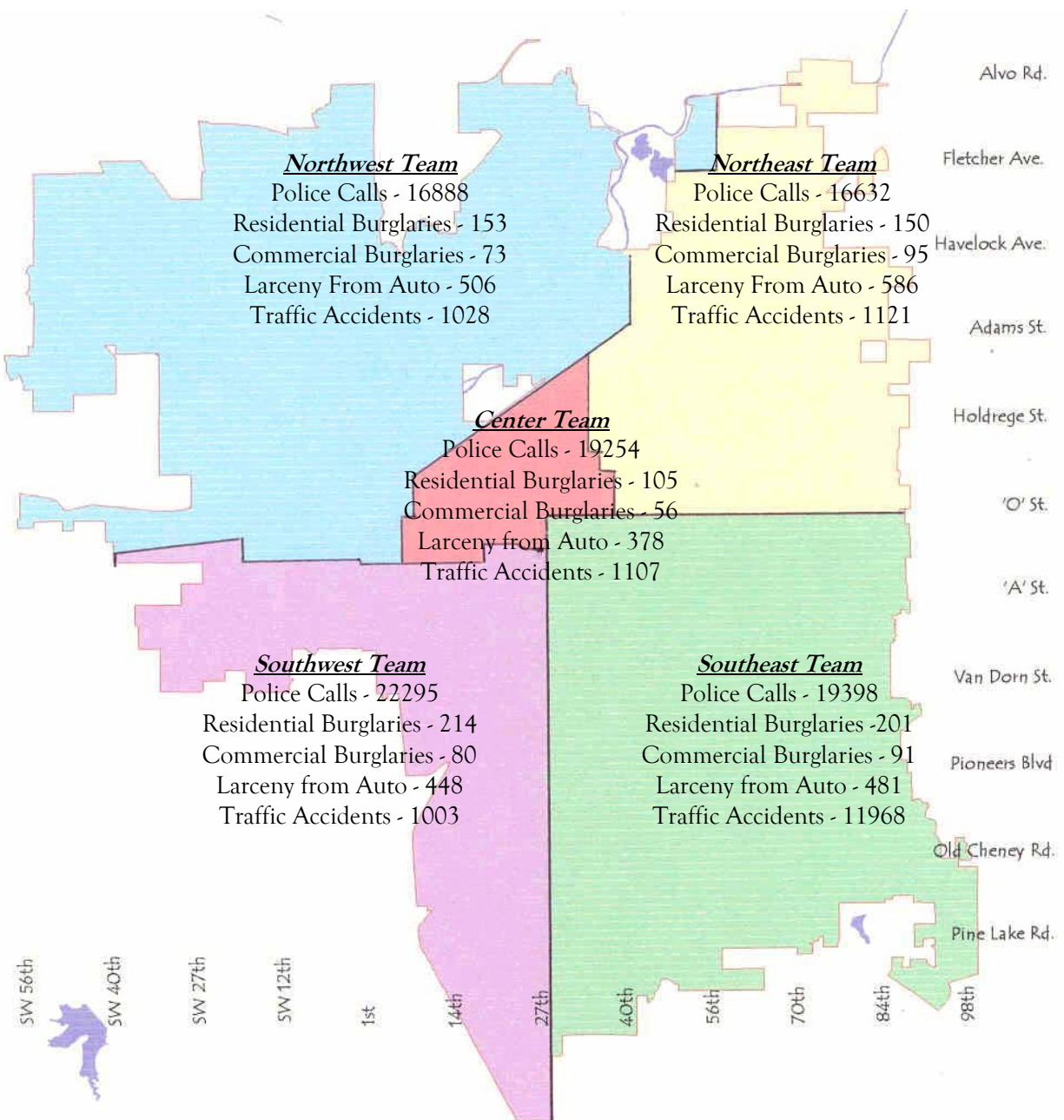
GOVERNMENT GRANT SCAMS

If you received an e-mail or a phone call that offers “free money” through a Government Grant for personal debt consolidation you may have just been introduced to the Government Grant Scams. Grants are usually given only to serve a social good, such as training under-employed youth, bringing job to an area or preserving a piece of history. One of these scam involves a telemarketers who “guarantees” an \$8,000 government grant in exchange for a \$257 “processing fee”. Then, if you’re lucky, you will receive a book listing different government programs and addresses where you could apply for a small government grant. A private company can’t guarantee you a government grant. The only “free money” involved in these deals is the money the con artist walks away with.

The Government Grant scam has also been used by con artists to attempt to obtain a victim’s personal banking information. One of our citizens received a call from a young lady telling him that he had just won a \$25,000 grant from the federal government. The caller then ask if he had a checking account and requested the account numbers, stating that she could then “pre-approve” the grant and have it deposited in his account.. Remember you don’t get something for nothing and never give out your personal financial information.



SUMMARY OF REPORTED CRIMES between 1-1-2005 and 8-31-2005



STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Through May of 2005 there have been 12,702 police calls for service across the city. This is 7% fewer calls for service than in the same time frame in 2004. The total number of residential burglaries for the city so far is 824, a 1.4 decrease from the previous year. Larcenies from auto reports are down 7.6% compared to this same time period last year. As of the end of May 2,499 incidents of larceny from auto have been reported.

During the first eight months of the year there have been 395 commercial burglaries reported. Compared to the same time period in 2004 that leaves us with a 16.5% increase in business break-ins. This is still a high increase in burglaries, but it is down considerably from the February numbers. The police department asks you to continue to pay attention to neighborhood businesses for any unusual people or occurrences and to call the police when you see any suspicious activities.

The "EYE"

Lincoln Police Department
Crime Prevention Unit
575 South 10th St.
Lincoln, NE 68508

Return Service Requested

Citizen Corps

Citizen Corps is a program that promotes individual responsibility for emergency and disaster preparedness through preparation, education, training and connection to agencies and organizations within the community who address safety issues. Individual and family preparedness can include activities as simple as putting together an emergency supply kit, making a family emergency plan, learning about different threats as well as getting involved in preparing our community.

Lincoln/Lancaster County Citizen Corps volunteers have been making presentations in the community to interested neighborhood groups and other organizations. Our volunteers would like the opportunity to speak with your group. A presentation would be a source of information for Neighborhood watch groups and neighborhood associations regarding emergency and disaster preparedness issues. A Citizen Corps presentation would include...

- ✓ Display sample disaster kits for families, children, and pets.
- ✓ Distribute copies of FEMA publication, "Are You Ready?".
- ✓ Distribute information related to Citizen Corps, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training, and emergency preparedness.
- ✓ Distribute information related to how individuals can volunteer at Emergency Volunteer Centers (EVCs), like the one operated in Princeton, NE after the Hallam NE tornado.
- ✓ Answer questions on how community members can get CERT training.
- ✓ Explain why it's important for citizens to become prepared.

To schedule a presentation for your group, call 435-2100 or e-mail your request to emergcoord@volunteerpartners.org.



The Lincoln/Lancaster County Citizens Corps received federal funding through the Lincoln/Lancaster County Emergency Management office and is operated out of the Volunteer Partners' office. To learn about Citizen Corps go to www.citizencorps.gov.